

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

STATEMENT BY SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR FRED A. SEATON ON OIL AND GAS LEASING ON THE KENAI MOOSE RANGE, ALASKA, JANUARY 29, 1958

I have approved this week a classification of the Kenai Moose Range in the Territory of Alaska which delineates those areas which will be opened and closed to development. The closed section--about 1,689 square miles--includes all areas on which the Fish and Wildlife Service believes oil and gas development would be incompatible with wildlife management purposes.

In those areas of the Kenai Moose Range open to oil and gas leasing--about 1,525 square miles--operations will be subject to stipulations which provide maximum protection for fish and wildlife.

The lands open to leasing lie primarily north of the Sterling Highway and include the current oil-producing area and two proposed new unit areas. Also included in the open areas will be the Swanson River Valley, lands around the towns of Kenai and Kasiloof, and the Soldonata area. All good spawning and rearing areas for salmon will be protected, and important waterfowl areas will be preserved. Also, because of its scenic beauty, an area at Bedlam Lake will be closed.

I am assured by Assistant Secretary Leffler that this action opening a portion of the Kenai range subject to the proposed regulated development is entirely consistent with the primary purpose for which the range is managed.

A map showing the locations of the open and closed areas is attached.

As of today no classifications of other areas have been completed. The Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management and the Geological Survey, as I advised you at our last press conference, are proceeding as rapidly as possible on classification procedures for other wildlife lands.

When the classification procedures have been completed and approved, they will be sent to the field personnel of the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Geological Survey. We will seek a speedy, but thorough, classification. It will be made initially by employees who know land and wildlife values, assisted by technicians who can judge properly the possibility of mineral occurrences. The final decision in all classifications, of course, rests with the Secretary of the Interior.

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KENAI NATIONAL MOOSE RANGE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

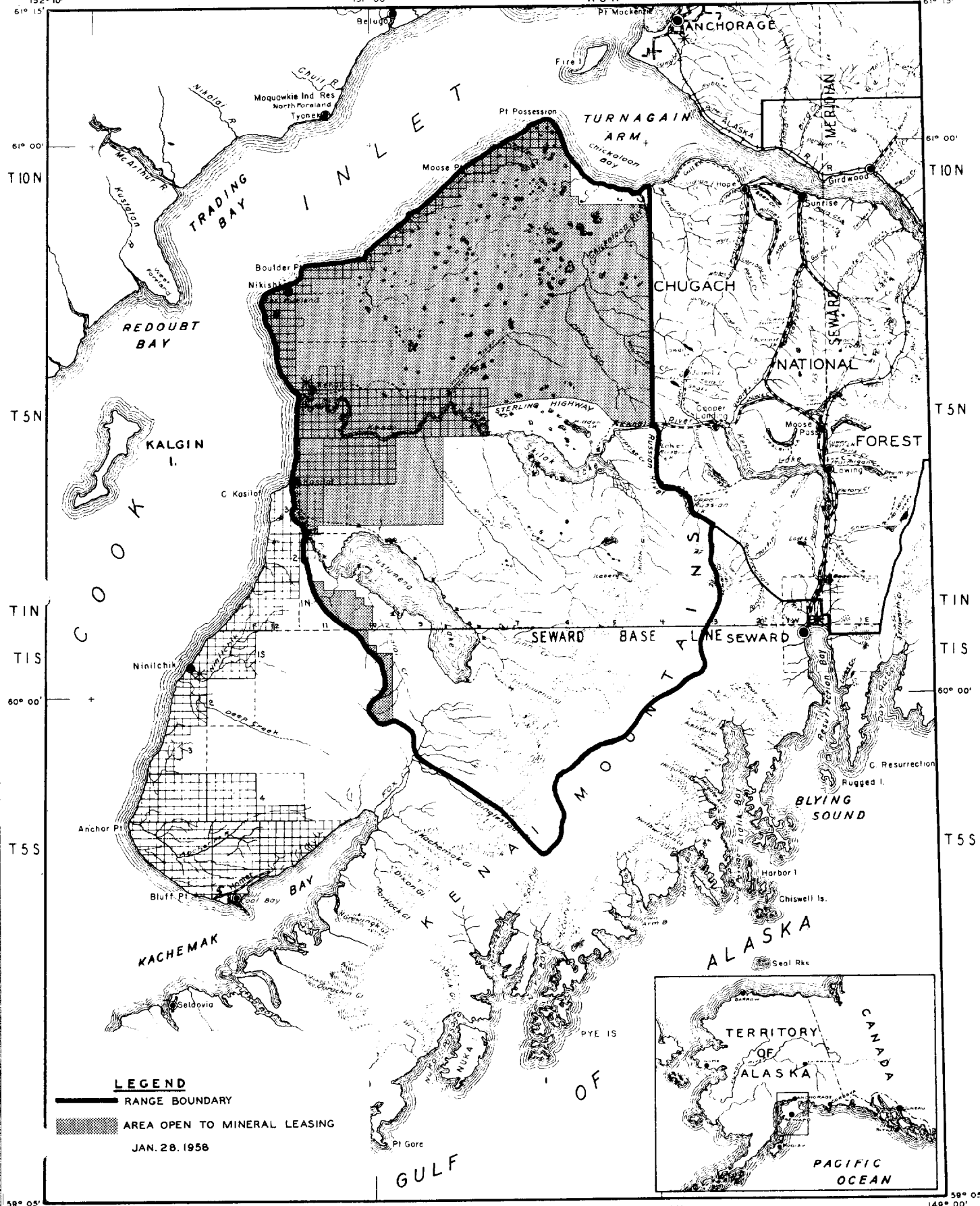
ALASKA

R5W 150° 00'

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

RIW R1E

149° 00' 61° 15'



LEGEND

RANGE BOUNDARY

AREA OPEN TO MINERAL LEASING

JAN. 28, 1958

R15W

SEWARD MERIDIAN

COMPILED IN THE DIVISION OF LAND ACQUISITION
BASE BY U.S.D. OF A FOREST SERVICE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20545

APRIL 1942

Scale

0 10 20 30 MILES



MEAN
DECLINATION
1934